THE RISE AND FALL OF MOISE TSHOMBE

A Biography
by
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forgiven.' Tshombe thought so little of this offer that he described it to the Spanish police as a trap.

The Spanish authorities seemed to realise his danger just as readily as Tshombe did; they feared that he might be assassinated, like Ben Khider, the Algerian politician shot in Madrid, despite the presence of two plain-clothes detectives. To kidnap him in Madrid and get him away from there to Africa did not seem physically possible; but by ill luck a mercenary officer had advised Tshombe that his more important conferences about a return to the Congo – a subject in which the Central Intelligence Agency was intensely, if unfavourably, interested – could be held with less risk of supervision by that zealous body if he would make trips to the holiday island of Majorca. It was there in Palma that Major Hoare had seen him in December 1966 and Major John Peters, despite his disruptive role in the Tshombe coup of 1966, was another visitor. He was due to meet Tshombe there late in June 1967. Tshombe had come to like the luxurious Hotel de Mar in Palma. It appealed to the European facets of his character. There was an elegant clientele of holidaymakers. He liked the vast view of the Mediterranean from the secluded windows of his suite. It was a quiet place in which to scheme out his Congo plans. The advice given to him may have been quite sincere, but it was also true that only 240 miles of open sea lay between Palma and the inhospitable coast of Algeria.